

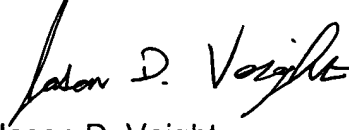
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DEC 18 2002
TC 1700

REMARKS

Claims 13-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b,e) as being anticipated by Goodwin (U.S. 5,284,753) or Rava et al. (U.S. 5,545,531). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Goodwin or Rava et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As explained in the specification, a non-continuous hydrophobic coating has "discontinuities" which create separate hydrophobic zones (1) around the measurement zones (2) (see specification page 3, lines 29-32; page 4, lines 16-20; Figures 1-4). In contrast, the cited art does not teach of discontinuities in the coating between the test wells to create separate hydrophobic zones. Applicants also request more detailed response to the Request for Reconsideration filed August 19, 2002.

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Respectfully submitted,
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Marked-up version of amended claims to show changes made.

13. (twice amended) A solid support for analytical measurement methods which comprises an inert solid support material on which hydrophilic measurement zones are separated from one another by at least one non-continuous hydrophobic coating wherein the hydrophilic discontinuities separate the non-continuous hydrophobic coating into separate hydrophobic zones surrounding the hydrophilic measurement zones, and where the number of measurement points applied per cm² of the support is greater [then] than or equal to 10.